

Atty. Docket No. 600323-059
PATENT

REMARKS

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed on September 19, 2006. For at least the reasons stated below, Applicant submits the claims are in condition for allowance and patentable over the prior art of record.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejects pending claims 1 - 19¹ under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,850, 426 to Watkins, et al. ("Watkins") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,875,242 to Glaser, et al. ("Glaser").

Claims 1 - 19 are currently pending in the present application, with claims 1, 8 and 14 being independent claims. By way of the present Response, Applicants hereby amend independent claim 1. No new matter has been added and the amendment is supported by the specification as originally filed. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the following remarks submitted herewith.

Independent Claim 1 is directed toward an apparatus for integrating a plurality of maintenance and testing systems that communicate with a plurality of **disparate** telecommunication systems. The apparatus of independent claim 1 comprises a platform that supports a control interface and a different user interface for each of the plurality of disparate telecommunication systems. The platform enables the formatting and transfer of data to each of the plurality of disparate telecommunication systems. The control interface allows a user to login and perform testing, trouble-shooting or billing

¹ The Office Action originally asserts the rejection as being asserted against 1-3, 5-9, 10-15 and 17-19, omitting claims 4 and 16. Although, the Action applies the present rejection to claims 4 and 16, so Applicants interpret this as merely a typographical error.

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updates. Independent claims 8 and 14 comprise the same claim element of "integrating a plurality of maintenance and testing systems that communicate with a plurality of disparate telecommunication systems."

The Examiner asserts that the claim element of "integrating a plurality of maintenance and testing systems that communicate with a plurality of disparate telecommunication systems" is obvious in view of Watkins. Specifically, the Examiner points to the reporting systems of Figure 1 of Watkins to establish the teaching by Watkins of a plurality of disparate telecommunication systems. However, Figure 1 of Watkins simply illustrates a system with a centralized computer and a multitude of reporting computers. Watkins describes the present invention using Figure 1 as providing "for the centralized and simultaneous control and/or monitoring of the reporting computer systems 104-114 by the centralized computer system 116." (Watkins, col. 3, lines 18-21). However, Watkins continues, "The reporting computer systems 104-114 are typically located in various remote locations throughout a geographical region. The size of the geographical region could be within the confines a single building, throughout an entire country or world wide. The geographical region is limited only by the size of the computer network 118." (Watkins, col. 3, lines 22-26).

Watkins, at best, teaches or suggests a monitoring system where remote monitors are located within a telecommunication system and communicate with a centralized computer. Watkins does not teach or suggest integrating disparate or separate telecommunication systems. Therefore, the asserted prior art fails to teach or suggest the claim element of "integrating a plurality of maintenance and testing systems that

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communicate with a plurality of **disparate** telecommunication systems" as contained within independent claims 1, 8 and 14.

Furthermore, dependent claims 2, 3, 5 through 7, 9 through 13, 15 and 17 through 19 contain additional features that further substantially distinguish the invention of the present application over the prior art of record. Given the Applicants' position on the patentability of the independent claims, the dependent claims of the present application are allowable for at least the same reasons as stated above regarding independent claims 1, 8 and 14.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the present rejection and passage of claims to issuance.

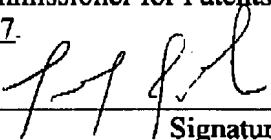
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For at least all of the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully request that the claims be presented for examination. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the Applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

Dated: October 11, 2007

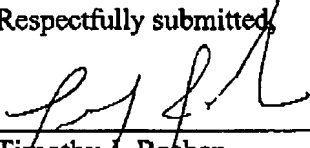
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is
being facsimile transmitted to the
Commissioner for Patents on October 11,
2007.



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